

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
INFORMATION REPORT

REPORT

CD NO.

COUNTRY	East Germany
SUBJECT	Shortages of Consumer Goods and Hoarding in East Germany

DATE DISTR. 3 June 1955

NO. OF PAGES 2

PLACE
ACQUIRED

**NO. OF ENCLS.
(LISTED BELOW)**

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DATE OF INFO.

SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

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1. In early March 1955, in East Berlin, Falkensee, and Hennigsdorf, ~~vegetables~~, sugar, and meat were in short supply and lard was withdrawn from the market by government decree. In Falkensee, one pound of sugar was allotted per person. Bed linen was scarce, while underwear and clothing were available in adequate quantities.
2. The population tried to purchase and hoard all available foodstuffs. Savings accounts were depleted to buy furniture, television sets, etc. It was observed that radio sets were adjusted to receive transmissions from the Nordwestdeutsche Rundfunk (Northwest German Broadcasting System) since, especially at Falkensee, reception of East German broadcasts was poor.
3. No coal has been available since February 1955. Raw coal was also lacking, and the persistent cold left many families without heat. Around 1500 hours, the electric voltage dropped by about 50 percent. Shutoffs occurred at irregular intervals without previous announcement.
4. In March 1955, a veterinarian reported that slaughter cattle from LPG Ahrenfelde was rejected by the slaughter house because of its half-starved condition.
5. Up to early March 1955, no butter was available at HO stores of Klein Machnow near Berlin. Only small quantities of inferior-quality lard and bacon were available. Rumors predicting renewed sugar rationing caused frantic buying and hoarding of sugar.
6. Similar rumors spread in late February regarding the flour supply. It became known that the VEAB Teltow grain silo, which has a capacity of 7,000 tons, contained only 2,000 tons of grain. This grain silo had repeatedly been filled by grain imports in recent years, but no such imports had arrived during the current year.
7. In early March, coal was no longer made available to the population. Coal stocks at the coal dealers were depleted and customers were told to wait ~~until April~~.

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CLASSIFICATION

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STATE	X	NAVY	X	NSRB	DISTRIBUTION						
ARMY	X	AIR	X	FBI						ORR	X

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SECRET

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8. Between 21 and 28 February 1955, no wheat flour was available in Neuenhagen near Berlin. Rolls and so-called white bread looked as dark as the "Konsumbrot" (dark bread). Sugar had completely disappeared.
9. In mid-March 1955, it was stated that the food situation was worse than three years ago. No food other than those items prescribed by the ration cards can be purchased. Fresh meat is delivered at irregular intervals, while butter is completely out of stock at HO shops; and meat, sugar, flour, and eggs are irregularly distributed in small quantities. Persons without connections to salespeople are greatly handicapped since a great deal of merchandise is sold "unter dem Ladentisch" (under the counter), and frequently bitter fights flare up.
10. Until March 1955, the supply situation in Jena was very ~~bad~~. This, in conjunction with the general nervousness of the population, brought about a hectic buying of all available merchandise by the people. Large sums are invested in furniture and luxury commodities. Butter and sugar were out of stock at the HO shops for weeks. The only flour available was of poor quality. Meat was scarce, especially beef. The critical food situation was attributed to the poor yield of the last harvest and little Soviet support. There is growing animosity against the Communist regime.
11. In the Jena Kreis (district) considerable variations in the power supply were noticed for weeks.
12. Since mid-February 1955, no vegetables, ~~and~~ cabbage, were available at the Nauen cooperative shops. Vegetables and free at the farmers' market at super prices. About 50 percent of the required butter was delivered. "Ersatz"-lard of a low fat content was offered. Rations were filled 50 percent. The sugar supply was ~~also~~.
13. Since early February 1955, no butter, lard, or sugar ~~was~~ at the Neustrelitz HO shops. A sum of 40 DMG was offered for hundredweight of turnips. No potatoes were on sale. In ~~the~~ sugar was sold by the Mirow and Buschhof cooperative shops. The butter supplied was rancid and could not be replaced.
14. Until early March 1955, the 1954 coal allocations to the farmers at Samtens (Kreis of Putbus) were still 100 tons short. None of the 1955 allocations had been delivered so far. On 5 March 1955, the Kreis administration gave orders to transfer all incoming coal shipments to Binz. This coal is believed to be delivered to the Binz KVP.

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10. Until March 1955, the supply situation in Jena was very tight. This, in conjunction with the general nervousness of the population, brought about hectic buying of all available merchandise by the people. Large sums are invested in furniture and luxury commodities. Butter and sugar were out of stock at the HO shops for weeks. The only flour available was of poor quality. Meat was scarce, especially beef. The critical food situation was attributed to the poor yield of the last harvest and little Soviet support. There is growing animosity against the Communist regime.
11. In the Jena Kreis (district) considerable voltage variations in the power supply were noticed for weeks.
12. Since mid-February 1955, no vegetables, not even cabbage, were available at the Neuen cooperative shops. Vegetables were sold free at the farmers' market at super prices. About 50 percent of the required butter was delivered. "Ersatz"-lard of a low fat content was offered. Sausage rations were filled 50 percent. The sugar supply was adequate.
13. Since early February 1955, no butter, lard, or sugar have been available at the Neustrelitz HO shops. A sum of 40 DMO was offered for one hundredweight of turnips. No potatoes were on sale. In February, no sugar was sold by the Mirow and Buschhof cooperative shops. The butter supplied was rancid and could not be replaced.
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